

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested on the grounds that it places the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 24 and 25 have been rejected while claims 26 through 28 have been objected to. Claim 24 has been amended to include the substance of claim 26, and claim 26 has been canceled. Thus, claim 24 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 25 depends from allowable claim 24.

Claim 27 has been rewritten in independent form to include the substance of claim 24. Thus, claim 27 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claim 28 depends from allowable claim 27.

This amendment should not be viewed as acquiescing in the examiner's position with respect to claims 24 and 25. Rather, this amendment has been made to expedite examination. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 24 and 25 in a continuation or other related application.

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Applicants do not agree with the statements in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office action or that these statements necessarily set forth the only reasons for patentability.

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Reply to Office action of 13 November 2003

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance for claims 14-16, 19 -21, and 24, 25 and 27 -32 is earnestly requested. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than through allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward L. Pencoske
Reg. No. 29,688
THORP, REED & ARMSTRONG
One Oxford Centre, 14th Floor
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1425
(412) 394-7789
Attorneys for Applicants